

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia

Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30
August 24, 2009

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, and Debbie Harris, Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Patient Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA, Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

Guests: Stephanie Sault and Robert Wade, Potential LHRC Members
Erin Haw and Elizabeth Nagji, VOPA
Dr. Mike Shutty, Psychologist C5/6 Unit
Sheryl Gregory, RN, ADON
Dr. Robert Gardella

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on August 24, 2009. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Debbie Harris, the minutes from the July meeting were approved as written. The agenda was unanimously approved with one cancellation.

Ms. Stephanie Sault and Mr. Robert Wade were introduced and later interviewed by the committee as potential candidates for membership.

Jerry Thomas read and discussed the Advocate's report on Human Rights Activities for the month of July.

Zachary Devore, VOPA representative, introduced two new members in his department, Erin Haw and Elizabeth Nagji. He noted that the department is still finishing up the goals and objectives for this fiscal year.

The patient complaints list, barriers list for discharge, and the IFPC meeting minutes were all reviewed by the committee with no questions to follow.

Mike Shutty, psychologist from, presented the C5/6 ward rules. He addressed the changes made since the last review. With a motion from Debbie Harris and a second from Hal Meyers, the rules were approved as presented.

At the request of the LHRC, Sheryl Gregory, RN, ADON and Dr. Robert Gardella discussed and demonstrated the Emergency Restraint Chair (ERC) to the committee. The educational presentation included an exchange regarding patient and staff safety, indications for use vs. offered alternatives, patient monitoring, necessary documentation and required staff training. LHRC members voiced their appreciation, and noted an improved understanding of its use and safety.

Donna Gum made several announcements describing mental health activities in the community.

Upon a motion made by Debbie Harris and a second by Ski Washington, the committee went into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(1) for the purpose of discussion and consideration of appointments for the Local Human Rights Committee.

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Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each ones' knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.

With a unanimous vote from the committee, Stephanie Sault and Robert Wade have been nominated for possible candidates of the LHRC. Their applications have been forwarded to the SHRC for final approval.

The next meeting date will be Monday, September 28.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made and passed to adjourn.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Shante' M. Ball, LHRC Secretary